

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00

SCEM-02 INT-08 TRSE-00 CEA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01

/183 W

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R 031800Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9295

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 913

USINT ALGIERS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 6999

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, XF, BE, SA, AG

SUBJECT: ARAB PETROLEUM MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS

REF.: (A) BRUSSELS 6973; (B) BRUSSELS 6971

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1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 30 MEETING WITH BELGIAN OFFICIALS AND DECEMBER 1 MEETING WITH DUTCH MINISTER ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, ALGERIAN EMISSARY ABDESSELAM WAS INTERVIEWED BY BELGIAN TV. ABDESSELAM GAVE GENERAL REVIEW OF ARAB POLICY, SAYING ARABS DID NOT WISH DESTROY ISRAEL; THAT ISRAEL MUST WITHDRAW TO 1967 BORDERS: AND PALESTINIAN PROBLEM MUST BE SOLVED BY CREATION OF NEW STATE. HE STATED CLEARLY THAT ARAB PETROLEUM EXPORT POLICY WILL DEPEND UPON PROGRESS TOWARD ARAB GOALS BUT THAT ARABS MIGHT CONSIDER PERMITTING USE OF ROTTERDAM PIPELINE IF GUARANTEES PROVIDED THAT NO ARAB CRUDE WOULD BE PROVIDED TO NETHERLANDS. END SUMMARY.

2. ALGERIAN INDUSTRY MINISTER ABDESSELAM AND SAUDI ARABIAN PETROLEUM MINISTER YAMANI MET IN BRUSSELS WITH BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS NOVEMBER 20 AND WITH NETHERLANDS MINECON AFFAIRS (ALSO IN BRUSSELS ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 1). DURING EVENING DECEMBER 1 ABDESSELAM WAS INTERVIEWED BY BELGIAN TV. YAMANI WAS REPORTEDLY ILL AND REMAINED IN HIS HOTEL ROOM. INTERVIEW SCREENED DECEMBER 2. INTERVIEW AS EXTENSIVELY REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS DECEMBER 3 AND QUOTATIONS GIVEN BELOW ARE ASCRIBED TO ABDESSELAM IN NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.

3. ABDESSELAM FIRST CONFIRMED THAT ARAB POLICY IS INTENDED TO CHANGE CONSUMER COUNTRIES' ATTITUDES TOWARDS ARAB CAUSE TO MINIMUM NEUTRAL POSITION IF NOT ONE OPPOSED TO ISRAEL. "WE DO NOT WANT TO THROW ISRAEL INTO THE SEA", SAID ABDESSELAM "BUT WE DO WANT THE ISRAELIS TO RETURN TO THE 1967 FRONTIERS AND THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED BY THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE BY MEANS OF A FORMULA YET TO BE NEGOTIATED: A JUDEO-PALESTINIAN FEDERAL STATE, TWO INDEPENDENT STATES, OR EVEN A MULTINATIONAL STATE. IF ISRAEL WOULD RESPECT 1967 FRONTIERS, WE WOULD LIFT THE RESTRICTIONS ON PETROLEUM. IF A PALESTINIAN STATE IS CREATED, WE PROMISE TO PROGRESSIVELY INCREASE PRODUCTION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD." MEANWHILE, ARAB PRODUCERS ARE DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN "FRIEND" AND "NEUTRALS" ON BASIS OF SEPTEMBER 1973 CONSUMPTION LEVELS.

4. REPLYING TO A QUESTION ABOUT EUROPE POLICY, ABDESSELAM REPLIED UNCLASSIFIED

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" WE DO NOT DEMAND ANYTHING, BUT YOU WILL NOTE THAT COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE HELPED US OR WHICH ARE HOSTILE TO ISRAEL ARE ESCAPING THE RESTRICTIONS." HE COMMENTED THAT THE JEWISH PROBLEM HAD BEEN PLACED ON ARAB BACKS BY EUROPE AND THAT "TODAY, WE ARE PUTTING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM ON EUROPEAN BACKS. IT IS A RETURN GIFT."

5. ABDESSELAM POINTED OUT THAT FRIENDSHIP WITH THE ARABS IS

INDISPENSABLE FOR PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND FOR SUPPLIES OF PETROMEUM. THE ARABS ARE WAITING FOR A CLEAR DECLARATION FROM THE NINE, A NEW STATEMENT WHICH WILL ELIMINATE THE AMBIGUITY IN THE COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, WHICH PERMITS A FEELING OF DOUBT ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE NETHERLANDS. HE THEN REPEATED ARAB VIEW THAT ISRAEL IN FACT HAS NO INTENTION OF RETURNING THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND SPECIFICALLY REJECTED ISRAELI THESIS OF ITS NEED FOR SECURITY ZONES OUTSIDE ITS OWN BORDERS. " WHEN THERE IS AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR TWO STATES TO LIVE ON TERMS OF GOOD RELATIONS, THERE IS NO NEED FOR ZONES OF THAT KIND."

6. TURNING TO SPECIFIC SITUATION OF BELGIUM, ABDESSELAM REFERRED TO BELGIAN MINFORAFFAIRS ELSLANDE'S STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL MUST RETURN TO THE 1967 FRONTIERS AND SAID THAT "IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THAT DECLARATION COULD CAUSE US TO CHANGE OUR ATTITUDE." (HOWEVER, PRESS POINTED OUT THAT BELGIUM STILL SUBJECT TO A FURTHER 5 PERCENT CUT IN JANUARY FOR A TOTAL OF 30 PERCENT OF ARAB-ORIGIN PETROLEUM.)

7. ON ROTTERDAM TRANSIT QUESTION, ABDESSELAM SAID IT WAS AT TECHNICAL PROBLEM AND THAT THE ARABS "DO NOT RULE OUT A SOLUTION CALLING FOR PETROLEUM DELIVERIES TO ROTTERDAM ON CONDITION THAT A STRICT CONTROL WOULD OPERATE SO THAT WE ARE SURE THAT THIS PETROLEUM WOULD GO ONLY TO EEC COUNTRIES, OTHERE THAN THE NETHERLANDS."
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